

PHOTO DONT'S

Motion Blur

Blurry Photos can occur from three main causes.

- **1. Many photos come out blurry due to movement. Either the subject or the camera moves during the exposure when the shutter is open.**
- **2. Camera's auto focus choosing the wrong spot to focus on. You can learn how to trick the auto focus into working the right way for you or set your camera to manual focus to fix this.**
- **3. A dirty camera lens.**





How to fix Motion Blur

1. Change your camera settings to a faster shutter speed
2. Stabilize the camera or cell phone on a flat surface or against a object to prop it up
3. Stabilize a camera or cell phone with a tripod or monopod
3. Adjust the camera focus by taking multiple photos with auto focus until the camera focuses on the correct part of the photo. You can also use manual focus
4. Clean the dirty camera lens

<https://www.better-digital-photo-tips.com/photo-mistakes.html>

PHOTO DONT'S

Poor Composition

Here is a good example of bad photo composition. **You can fall into this trap when you see something you want to photograph, aim, and quickly shoot, without taking just a second to think about the framing and setup of your photo.**

Simply by habit and without thinking, many photographers typically shoot pictures while holding their camera in a horizontal position. This subject looks better composed as a vertical (portrait orientation), rather than a horizontal (landscape orientation).



How to Fix Poor Composition

- Photo Orientation (Portrait vs Landscape)
- [Applying the Rules of Composition to your photo](#)

Another common mistake is not to fill your frame with your subject. The photograph on the right is a much better picture. The mug is vertical and the vertical format looks much better.



Poor
Composition



Better
Composition

PHOTO DONT'S

Poor Composition

Photographing something from a far away distance so that it is hard to see the subject in the photo



PHOTO DONT'S

How to Fix Poor Composition

Get closer to the subject so that you can see the subject more clearly



Poor
Composition



Better
Composition

PHOTO DONT'S

Tangents

Here are some good examples of photo tangents. You want to avoid these in your photos.

A **tangent** is when two or more lines interact in a way that creates a relationship between them that the **artist** did not intend.

This can happen in several ways. In these photos, there is an element in the background of the photo that aligns near the head of the subject. This distracts from the subject and looks awkward.

<https://emptyeasel.com/2008/11/18/avoiding-tangents-9-visual-blunders-every-artist-should-watch-out-for/>



PHOTO DONT'S

Touching Tangents

Here are some other examples of photo tangents.

In these photographs, the food elements seem to visually almost “touch” one another or touch against a visual line.

This creates a visual tension that is often unappealing. It can even appear like a lack of thoughtfulness or planning on the photographers part

In the example below both tops of the lemons hit a horizontal line, it can start to make whatever is on the horizontal line feel like it is sitting ‘on top’ of the object.

<https://willkempartschool.com/compositional-mistakes-in-drawing/>

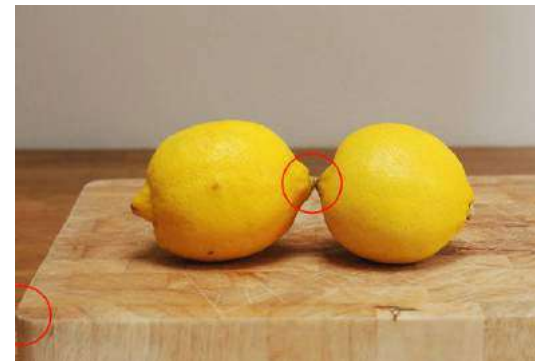
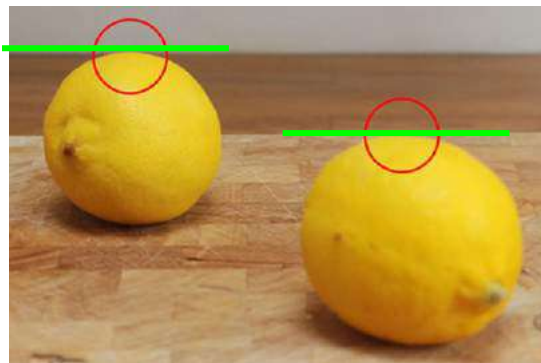
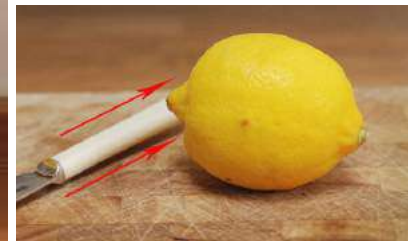


PHOTO DONT'S

Frame Tangents

Here are some other examples of photo tangents.

In this photo, the top and sides of the jar touch the top and bottom of the photo frame.

The edge of the fruit also right on the edge of the bottom of the photo frame. This creates a crowded appearance.



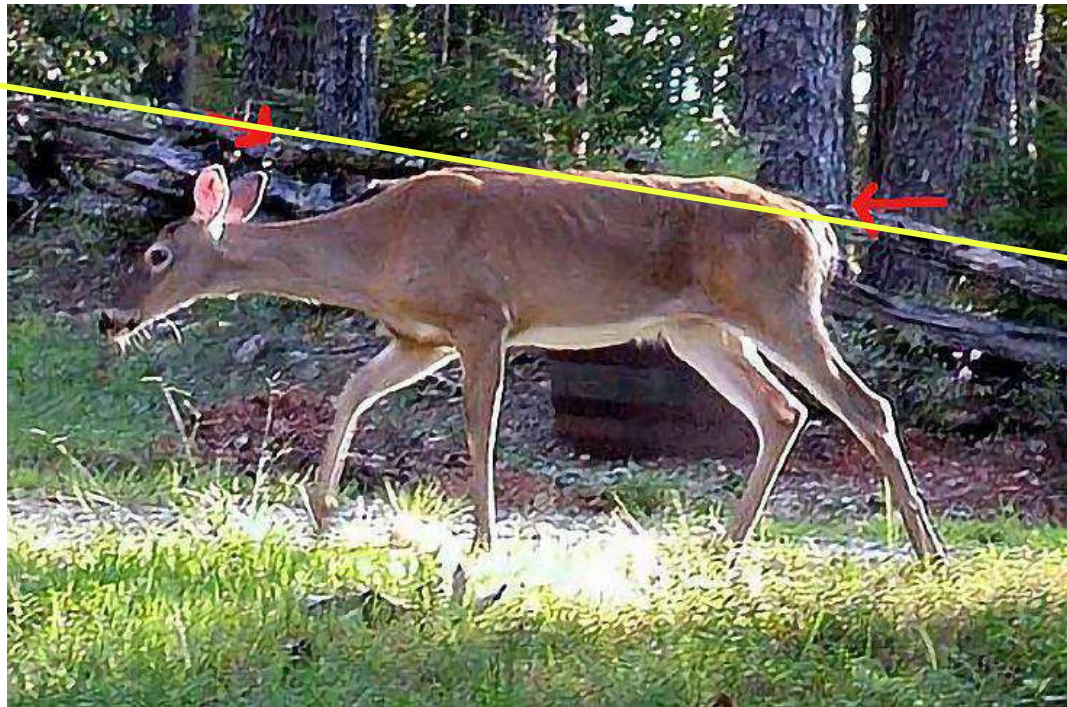
<https://emptyeasel.com/2008/11/18/avoiding-tangents-9-visual-blunders-every-artist-should-watch-out-for/>

PHOTO DONT'S

Merged Edge Tangents

Here are some other examples of photo tangents.

When the edge of one shape aligns perfectly with the edge of a second shape, it creates a lack of definition between the 2 edges.



<https://emptyeasel.com/2008/11/18/avoiding-tangents-9-visual-blunders-every-artist-should-watch-out-for/>

PHOTO DONT'S

Cropping Tangents

Here are some other examples of photo tangents.

When a symmetrical shape is cut in half by the edge of the photo or cropped out, it creates an uncomfortable, chopped-off feeling for the viewer. This is especially true for people and animals.

This does not look visually appealing and looks like an error.



<https://emptyeasel.com/2008/11/18/avoiding-tangents-9-visual-blunders-every-artist-should-watch-out-for/>

PHOTO DONT'S

Antler Tangents

Here are some other examples of photo tangents.

When distinct vertical shapes appear directly behind an object or person, like a pole or tree, they often appear to be growing out of that object or person like a pair of **antlers**.

This does not look visually appealing and looks like an error.

<https://emptyeasel.com/2008/11/18/avoiding-tangents-9-visual-blunders-every-artist-should-watch-out-for/>



PHOTO DONT'S

Antler Tangents

Here are some other examples of photo tangents.

When distinct vertical shapes appear directly behind an object or person, like a pole or tree, they often appear to be growing out of that object or person like a pair of **antlers**.

This is a nice portrait photo but the bridesmaid would have looked a lot better without the four "horns" in the background:

This does not look visually appealing and looks like an error.



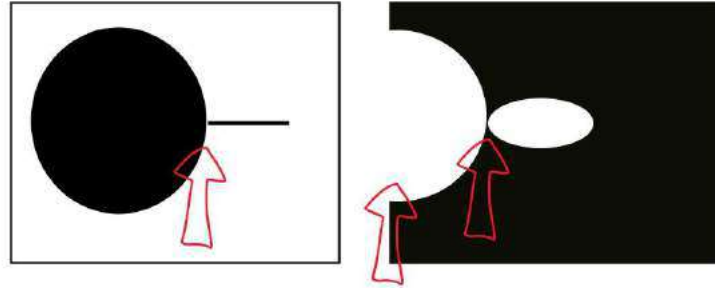
<https://emptyeasel.com/2008/11/18/avoiding-tangents-9-visual-blunders-every-artist-should-watch-out-for/>

PHOTO DONT'S

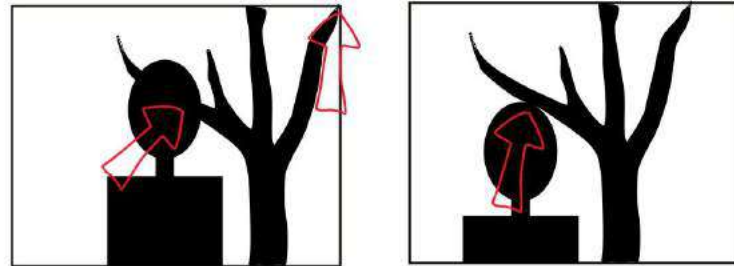
Tangents can make a photo appear:

- Cluttered
- That there is a lack of photo preparation
- That there is a lack of skill or lack of effort on the photographers part

Examples of Tangents



Note, the edge of a picture plane is also a shape to consider



How to Fix Tangents

- Overlapping objects in a photo
- Cropping
- Moving farther away from the subject
- Photographing from a different point of view (POV)
- Changing the photo composition

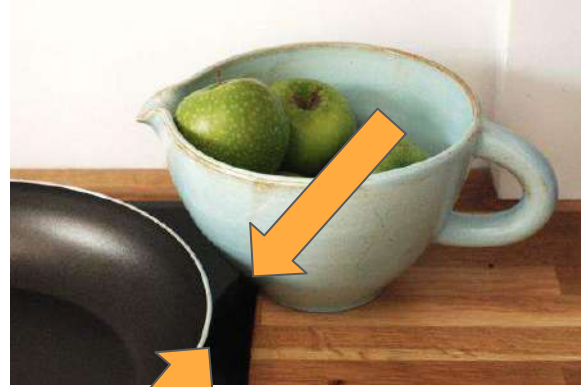


PHOTO DONT'S

Distracting or Cluttered Background

This may be the most frequent photography mistake of all. Usually this is best handled by moving the camera or moving your subject to a different spot. In this photo of "Mocha", you can barely see her head. Her dark fur blends right in with the dark area of the fish pond.

There is poor visual separation of her head from the dark background of the fishpond.

In addition to that mistake, the green plastic and the wooden boxes, behind her on the left, are also very distracting in the background.



How to Fix a Cluttered or Distracting Background

- Change photo angle
- Change photo location
- Crop the photo
- Change photo composition or camera orientation when photographing
- Move distracting elements out of the way in the background
- Change camera settings so that there is a narrow or shallow depth of field

Your subject can separate from your background because a difference in color, a difference in the lighting, or a difference in the sharpness. Mocha is visually separated from the background because of the difference in color AND the **narrow depth of field** (the range of things in sharp focus).



PHOTO DONT'S

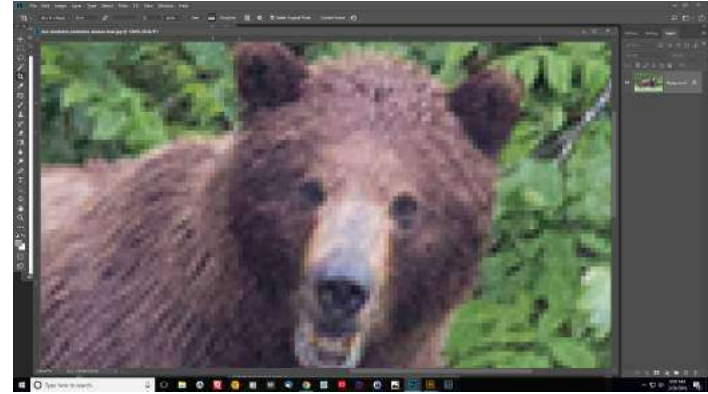
Individual pixels can be seen from extreme cropping

Pixelation

Pixelation describes a typical photo mistake that we all can make. **Pixelation occurs when you try to print from a photo file that is small**

It can also happen when you try to crop a photo when editing from a small file.

It results in a lack of sharpness or, in extreme situations, you actually see the individual pixels in the image. There just aren't enough pixels left to keep the image sharp.



Lack of sharpness from too much cropping



How to fix Photo Pixelation

- You should **never, ever** use anything but the **highest quality setting on your camera**.
- Physically get closer to what you are photographing when photographing
- Zoom in with the camera when you are photographing



You can always reduce the size of a photo when you are doing your editing. If you use a reduced quality setting on your camera, you are ruining what may be a great photo for enlarging later.

- Increase the photo sharpness when editing the photo

<https://www.photoxels.com/digital-photography-tutorials/optical-digital-zoom/>

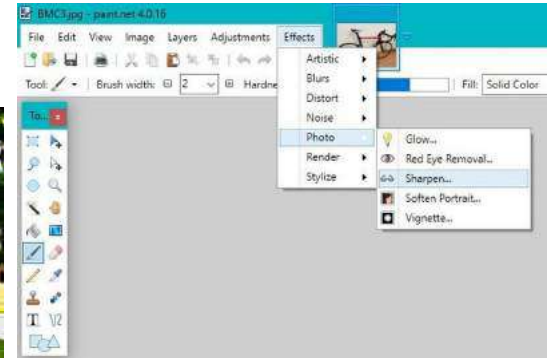


PHOTO DONT'S

Poor Photo Exposure- Underexposed

The most common photo mistake involving exposure is usually underexposed images.

Underexposed means that the photo does not have enough light in the photo.

This makes it difficult to see the photo clearly.

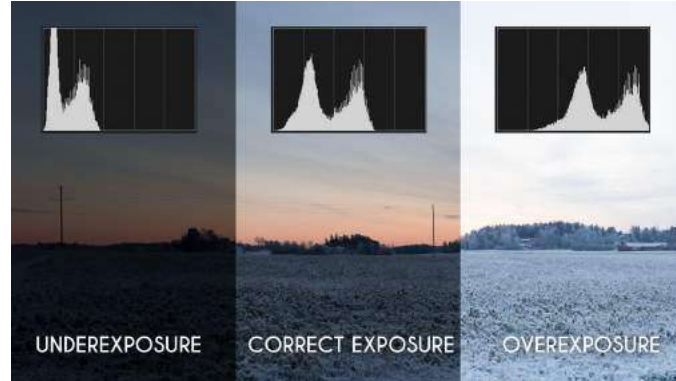


PHOTO DONT'S

Poor Photo Exposure- Overexposed

All too often, photos are taken on compact cameras and digital SLRs in inadequate lighting conditions.

Lighting is key to taking a good photo. I know it sounds obvious but a photo really is only a collection of light; this has to be good.

Pop up flashes tend to cast a very harsh light over your subject, flattening the image. Instead, off-camera flashes, which can be rotated to point to a wall or ceiling, have the ability to create much more natural light.

Overexposed means that the photo has too much light in the photo.

This makes it difficult to see the details of the photo clearly.



How to Fix Poor Exposure

- Use a light meter or look at the histogram on the camera to see the levels of light in the photo
- Look at the exposure meter on the camera to see the exposure levels
- Physically change the lighting if possible
- Adjust camera settings such as the camera mode. You can also manually set the ISO, shutter speed, and aperture to adjust the exposure.
- If the photo is too dark: Add more light sources or increase the intensity of the light(s)
- If the photo is too light: Take away light sources or reduce the intensity of the light(s)

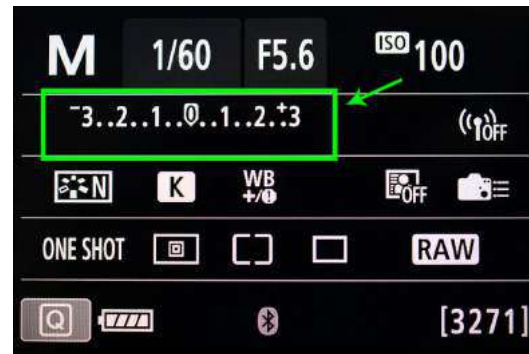
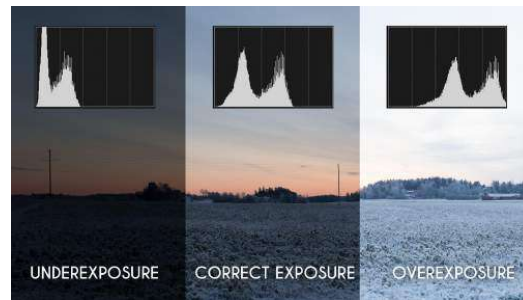


PHOTO DONT'S



SNAPSHOTS

- **Quickly photographing a few photos with little effort & preparation**
- **No artistic point of view or composition**

A snapshot is a casual photograph typically made by an amateur. These photos are taken quickly to capture a moment or something specific. However, they are usually not creatively composed or thought out when photographing.

By contrast, photography is more considered and often carried out by a professional or semi-professional. Photography seems much more complicated than shooting snapshots—but it doesn't have to be.



EXAMPLE

Vacation Snapshot



- There is no clear focal point
- Poor Lighting & Contrast
- Not interesting to look at



Vacation Photo



- Clear focal point
- Correct photo exposure
- Lighting & Contrast
- Compositional choices with Rule of Thirds & Framing
- Interesting to look at

PHOTO DONT'S

- **Photographing random and boring things around your bedroom or classroom.**

This is not creative and lacks effort.



PHOTO DONT'S



Plagiarism

Turning in photos that someone else has photographed and turning it in as if you had photographed it yourself.

If you did not take the photograph, it is not your photo. This is considered plagiarism and you will receive zero credit for the assignment.

PHOTO DONT'S



- **Plagiarism**

Turning in photos of yourself that someone else has photographed of you

This could be a sports photo, a school photo, or even a nice photo of you that a friend or family member has taken of you.



Even if you are in the photo, this is considered plagiarism because you did not photograph the photo yourself.

You are being graded on your photography skills, not on your modeling skills. You will receive zero credit for the assignment.

PHOTO DONT'S

It is very obvious that these are excellent photos of high school athletes.

It is also very clear that these are photographs that were photographed by a professional photographer or professional sports photographer.

Even if you are in the photo, you are not the person who set up the photo and photographed it. In this situation, you are the model in another person's photograph.

Therefore, it would be considered plagiarism to turn in a photo like this of yourself since you did not photograph this photo.



PHOTO DONT'S



SCENARIO

Photo



Photo Setup



Questions

Who took the photo?

Whose photo is it?

SCENARIO

Photo



Photo Setup



Questions

Who took the photo?

Whose photo is it?

SCENARIO

Photo



Photo Setup



Questions

Who took the photo?

Whose photo is it?



Model: A model is a person with a role either to promote, display or advertise commercial products or to serve as a visual aid for people who are creating works of art or to pose for photography.

Photographer: a person who takes photographs, especially as a job.

Because the photographer is taking the photo, this is his photo, not the models.

The model is the subject of the photo. However, it is not her photo because she did not take the photograph of herself.

IN CONCLUSION

Whoever photographed the image=Photographer.

They are the person who gets credits for the photograph. It is their photograph despite who or what is in it.

Whoever or whatever gets photographed=Model.

They are the person, object, place, etc. that is the subject of the photo. They are in the photo but they do not get credit for taking the photograph.

PHOTO DONT'S



Taking a photo or multiple photos of someone's else's photography or artwork and turning it in as your own.

Even if you photographed the photo yourself, it is not your original photo or artwork inside the photo. This is considered to be plagiarism and will not be accepted for credit.

PHOTO DONT'S



- **Taking a photo or multiple photos of someone's else's photography or artwork and turning it in as your own.**
- Even if you photographed the photo yourself, it is not your original photo or artwork inside the photo. This is considered to be plagiarism and will not be accepted for credit.

PHOTO DONT'S



Not taking new photographs and turning in or editing photos that you have previously photographed on your cell phone or camera

The point of you being in a photography class is to LEARN HOW to take better photos.

You will not learn and improve if you do not practice and take photographs.

This is a skill that you can use now and in the future.

PHOTO DONT'S



Screenshotting photos

1. I have no idea of if this is even your photo. This photo could easily be screenshotted from the internet, social media, etc.

2. It is a distracting element in the photo

I will not accept screenshotted photos for credit

PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography

The words trite means:
"Boring from much use : not fresh or original"

It means: an idea (or image) that is overused and consequently of little import; lacking originality or freshness.

In order words as the kids say...it's basic

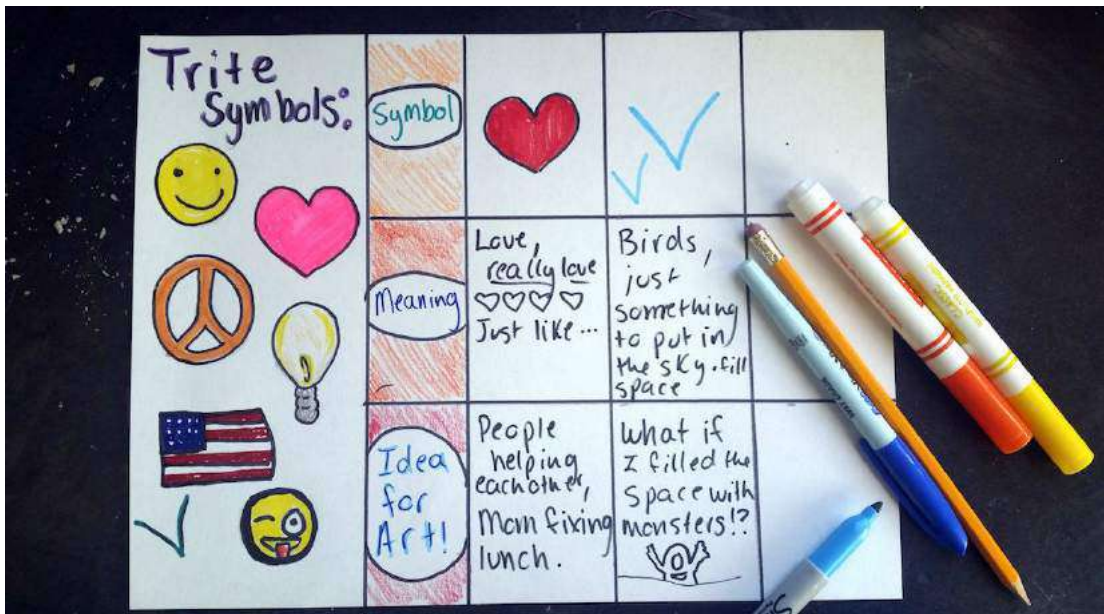


PHOTO DONT'S

What does trite art or photography *look* like?

INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: **Mushrooms**, **Ying-yangs**, **Peace signs**, Corner suns, Daisies, Famous people, Race cars, Horses, Rock stars, **Polka dots**, Trucks, Planes, Cars, Ballet, **Suns**, Theatre Masks, **Moons**, **Dragons and Dinosaurs**, **Stars**, **Hearts**, Feathers, Birds, **School mascots**, Athletics, Sports illustrated pictures, General flowers, Cd covers, Copyright materials, Furry animals, Drugs, Alcohol, Cigarettes, Eyes, **Tigers and leopards**, Snakes, **Butterflies**, **Unicorns**, Pegasis, Under the sea, Side fish, **Cartoons**, **Anime**, Clothing and shoe logos, Dolphins, **Rainbows**, V or M birds, Dragons, Princesses, **Balloons**, **Puff clouds**, Stick people, **Tears**, Monsters, Western themes, Howling wolves, Wizards, Vampires, Aliens, Outer space, Lipstick tubes, Ipods, Love, Precious moments, **Eyeballs**, Tagging, **Seasonal themes**, Ladybugs, Crowns, Angels, **Mythical themes**, Teddy bears, Bows, Simple fireworks, Close ups of watches, Half faces, Generic houses, **Fire**, Blood and guts, Camo, Pyramids, Deer heads, Tree frogs, National Geographic copies, Makeup girl ads, **Smiley faces**, **Roses with dew**, Bats, **People kissing**, **Drama masks**, City, skylines, Spiders, Palm trees, Beach scenes, Umbrellas, Seashells, **Hearts**, Fairies, Scallop waves, Elementary trees, **Dripping blood**, Knives, Devils, Tulips, Bubbles, Puffy fluffy clouds, Dollar sign, **Disney characters**, **Eight ball**, **Lips**, **Sun with sunglasses**, **Swords**, **Bubble lettering**, **Flames**, Mermaids, Crescent moon... and more....

PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Hands making shapes, words, or symbols



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Hands making shapes, words, or symbols



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Hands making shapes, words, or symbols



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Street Signs



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Fence in perspective



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Shoes from first person point of view



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Group Photos-Usually someone else photographed the photo that the student is turning as if they had photographed it themselves. AKA Plagiarism

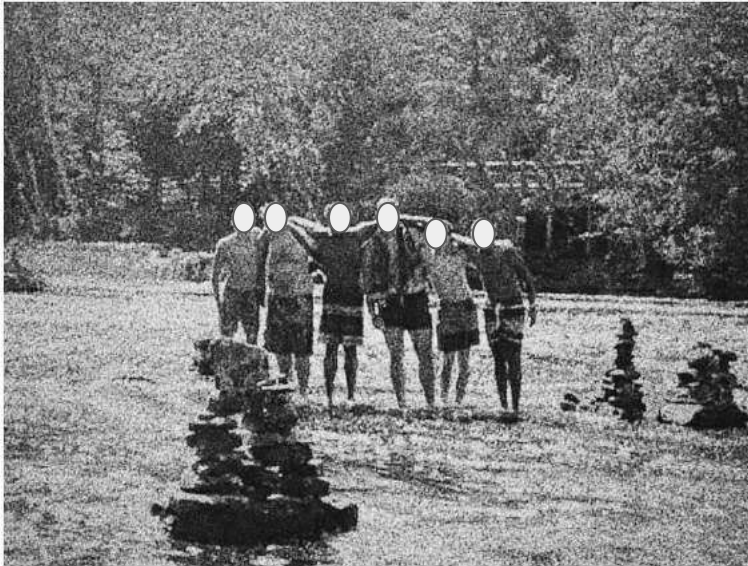
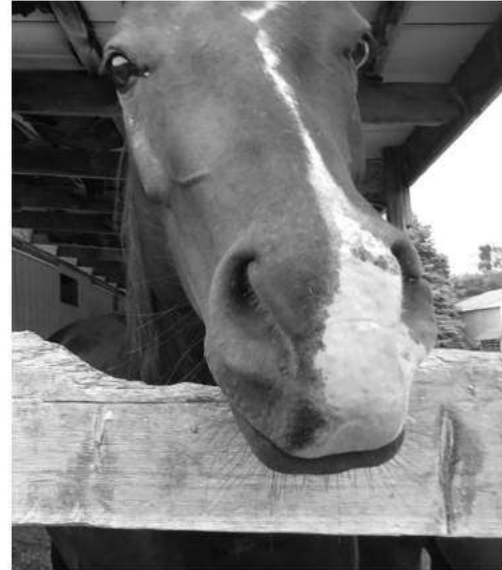


PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Pets



Note: I adore animals but usually pet portraits are boring and not done very well

PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Basic Street



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

The parking lot



PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

Cars outside the car window



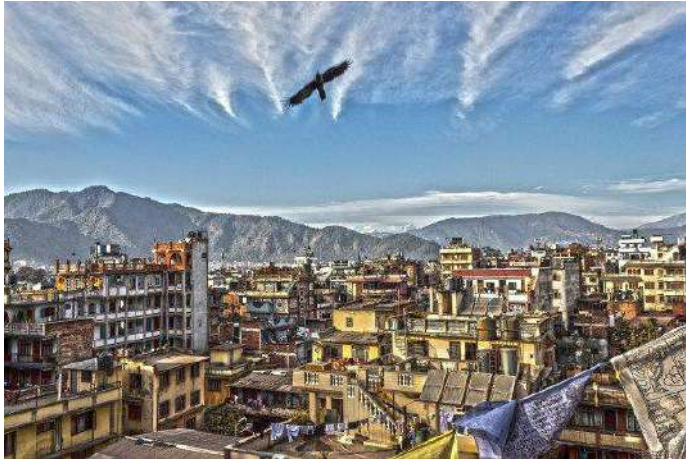
PHOTO DONT'S

Trite Photography Examples

The Sun/Solar Flare



PHOTO DONT'S



Over-editing your photos

No three letters make photographers cringe more than HDR. Although 'high dynamic range' does have a purpose in photography and can be utilised correctly, the style of processing that it has been attached to is one where the highlights and shadows of an image look the same.



Although at first it may appear like your image looks colourful and super detailed, it confuses the human brain and should be avoided. Shadows are dark and highlights are bright for a reason. Without a clear distinction between them, an image will look more like a cartoon than a photo.

PHOTO DONT'S

Over-editing your photos



Adding too many filters and blur effects so that the subject of the photo is difficult to see clearly

PHOTO DONT'S

Over-editing your photos



Oversaturation of Color

I have seen so many great photos butchered with crazy colors. Try to stay away from the “Saturation” sliders as much as possible. A little bit of color saturation is not bad, but too much color makes images appear fake and unnatural. While the definition of color and its intensity varies greatly between photographers, an oversaturated image is easy to identify. Stay away from too much color saturation and do your best to make your photos appear as natural and balanced as possible.

PHOTO DO'S



Photograph a lot of photos

- Photograph from different angles
- Photograph a variety of lighting situations
- Photograph different composition choices

PHOTO DO'S

Learn how to edit your photos appropriately (post processing)



You want to edit your photos to make them look as the best versions of themselves.

Editing your photos is an artform and there is a line between improvement and editing for editings sake.

However, the majority of your work should be in the setup of the photo to make it look as best as possible in the first place.

You do not want to have to do hours of editing on a photo to fix areas when you could have just done the work in the setup and photographing in the first place.

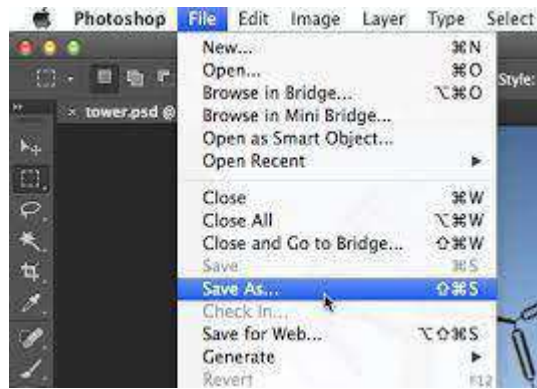


PHOTO DO'S

Save your photo files in multiple places and in multiple formats!!!!

Google Drive

Google Classroom

Google Photos- once this app is set up, your pictures should automatically sync to G Photos

These apps are free and will make it that much easier for you to upload your work.



You should be saving your photos

- On your google drive
- Organized in folders and subfolders on your desktop

PHOTO DO'S



Photograph with intention

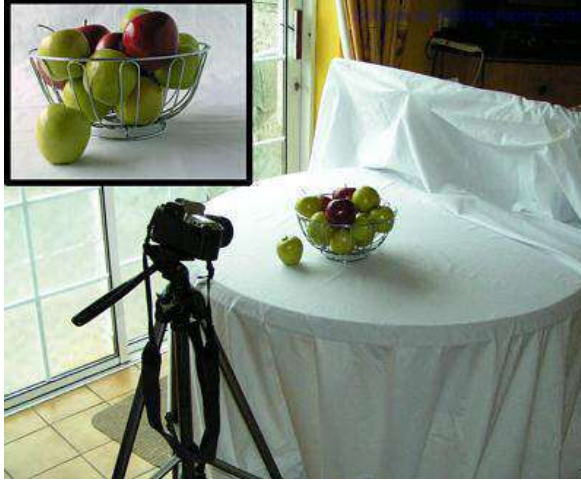
Have a specific goal or idea in mind for your photos

How do you want the photo to look?

What do you want the viewer to notice or look at in the photo?

What is the idea behind the photo?

PHOTO DO'S



Be Prepared!

- Have your cell phone or camera to photograph
- The subject of the photo such as a model or props
- A specific location or backdrop for the photo
- Lighting

PHOTO DO'S

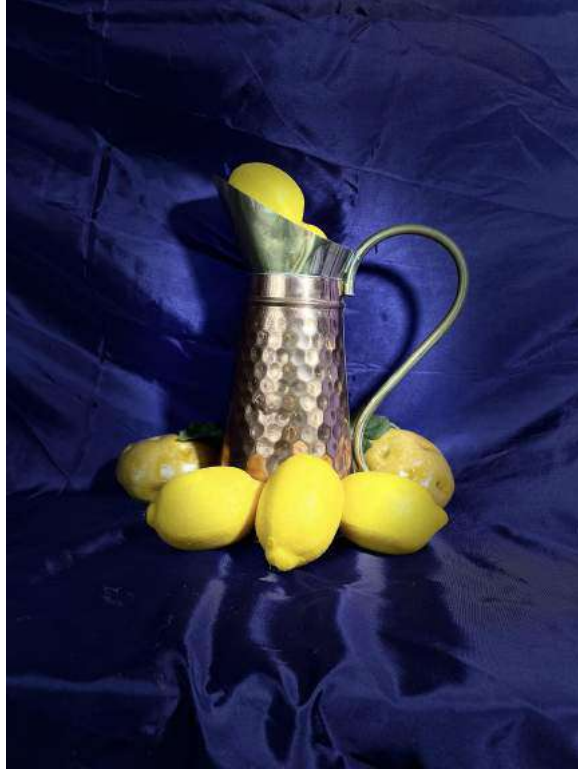


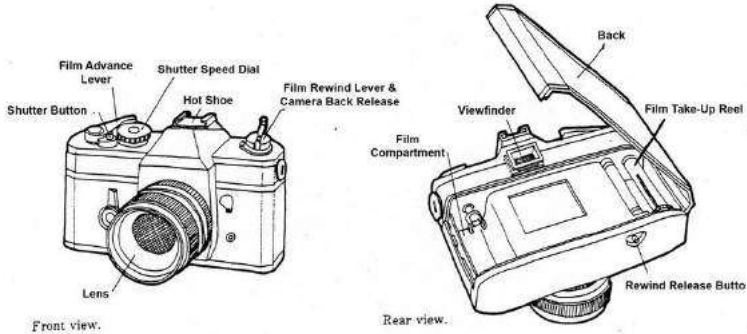
Photo Content or Subject Matter:

Can the image be enjoyed by someone else without any context or description?

Take your own emotion out of the act of taking the photo as well as curating. Sunsets are one subject that often gets caught up in a photographer's emotion.

Without something else in the photo to anchor the story to a place or person, it's just another pretty sunset that could be anywhere.

PHOTO DO'S



Know your camera settings and the anatomy of the camera!

- Know what they do
- How to use them
- When to use them

PHOTO DO'S

Practice, practice, practice!

